

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (canceled).

10. (Original) A bone-boring device:

at least one curved needle adapted for extending to bore a hole in a bone;

a base holding said needle and adapted for being placed against a bone;

a handle coupled to the base; and

a needle retractor, which retracts said needle when a force on said handle in a particular direction is lower than a predetermined amount, prior to said base retreating from said bone in response to a lowering of the force.

11. (Currently Amended) A bone-boring device, comprising:

at least one curved needle adapted for extending to bore a hole in a bone;

a base holding said needle and adapted for being placed against a bone

a handle coupled to the base; the handle capable of receiving a force in a particular direction for associating the device with a region that is at least substantially adjacent bone; and

a needle advancer, which advances said needle only when a force on said handle in a particular direction is higher than a predetermined amount, said predetermined amount assuring that said base is urged against said bone.

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) A self-aligning device for boring into bone, comprising:
a boring head having at least two boring tips;
a body;
a handle attached to said body; and
a hinge coupling said boring head to said body at a location substantially
equidistant from said boring tips.

16. (Original) A device according to claim 15, wherein said boring tips comprise
boring needles.

17. (Original) A device according to claim 15 wherein said boring tips comprise
boring needles.

18. (Original) A device according to claim 15, wherein said head includes a power
source for activating said boring tips..

19. (Original) A device according to 15, wherein said boring tips face said handle.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a channel in a bone, comprising the
steps of:

providing a device capable of drilling a hole in bone and of advancing a
needle,
drilling two holes in a cortex of the bone with the device; and
using the device to advance at least one needle through said drilled holes
through a medulla of said bone.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein said holes are perpendicular to a surface of said bone.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein said at least one needle comprises two needles that meet inside the bone. .

23. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for forming a channel in a bone, comprising:
at least two drill bits for drilling into a bone
each of said drill bits having an aperture on a side thereof; and
at least one needle adapted to fit through at least one of said apertures to pass a suture therethrough.

Claim 24 (cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said drill bits are parallel.

26. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said at least one needle comprises at least two needles.

27. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said at least one needle comprises at least two needle.

Claim 28 (Cancelled).